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June 2, 1966

Mr. Vincent J. Salandria
2226 Delancey Place
Philadelphia 5, Pa.

Dear Mr. Salandria,

We really thank you very much for your letter of May 31 and the kind invitation. Especially now would I like to accept it but we can afford neither the cost nor the time. We'd to tell you how I have been working, I fear you might feel as justified as Mr. Armoni in one of his less kind comments. There is not enough time to do what I feel I must; and the necessities of the book and the problems attendant to it are great. In eight days I owe about $300.00 for the balance of the cost of the paper. I borrowed the down payment, which was about 75% of this cost. There is $3,000 due about the week of the 27th for the printing, and there is also the cost of the photography and plating, for which I do not yet know the costs, thanks to other kindnesses, but which I imagine will be $1200-$1500. Besides these amounts I have to raise and do not yet know how, the are other costs on which we as yet have no bills. I went to Washington this morning with $3.00 in my pocket, and parking charges, had I not parked illegally, would have consumed that in no time. I tell you this not to elicit your sympathy but your understanding first, of part of the genuine reasons for declining your kind invitation and second, to perhaps elicit your understanding if at sometime in the future you again think I am unreasonable. I do not so intend, nor have I. As for the past, let's look to the future.

There is one suggestion I will make that is an exception, and it stems from the fact that I am not a lawyer and have not reason to credit your evaluation of your own capacity in this field. If Mr. Armoni is willing, as I am, perhaps you might sometime want to read our exchange and see if, as a lawyer and his friend, there is any advice you might want to offer.

You will not for some time realize just how rough a time I am getting from other sources. I will give you but a single sample. I wrote all the libaral publications I thought might be willing to consider advertising on either a per order or a commission basis. I have had a direct reply from but one. It was no. Mr. Armoni's was one of the but two others. You by this time perhaps have an indication of the nature of his. From the other there was a brief, not unfriendly card. Tomorrow is the end of the fourth week since I began mailing them out. Two unimportant US newspapers saw fit to give me extensive treatment, not unfavorable. The London Times gave me a good story. There was something in France the nature of which I do not know. There will be something In Australia. And the Washington Post gave so large and prominent a display to Epstein's book and mine as to still seem incredible, eight columns accross the top of the front page and a jump making a total of about a full page, a subtle and quite dishonest attempt to refute the books. They did not do with mine what they indicated they would, in fact reflected nothing of it or its contents and dumped the release date on Epstein's by 32 days to use it to sublimate mine, for as the most casual reading of the story reveals, they could not have quoted from mine and written the story they did. I cannot begin to tell you how much work, patients and to me cost was involved in this.

M Reviews

My book did better before this story, from what I learned today, which is not at all conclusive.

Meanwhile, from what now impends, my public relations is somewhat successful. What it will mean even if it is delivered as now promised remains to be seen. Tomorrow I expect a radio station to tape five three-minute shows to be used on prime news time. It is a major Washington station. This will give me a forum for m more than the book. Saturday night I've got a rough one, a half hour, ad lib, on a popular program by a guy who baits everybody in any way and has made a success of such nastiness his audience hates him, but tunes him in. We'll see how it turns out. These things are all in Washington, where the major opinion on this subject, unless I'm wrong, is to be formed. Other things now look promising. These are things I believe Sylvia will be interested in, and I will not immediately have time to write her.

During the past week I have done some things that will help Epstein, who was fortunate in having his book in the hands of the Post, where I'd done all the work, at the propitious moment. That is, if the story was helpful to him. It may have been. I'm not in a position to judge. Although a bad story, it may yet turn out to have been a good thing.

We remain in disagreement on what you mean by credits. I drew on no other work. one existed at the time I finished my work. Had I the space for it, there were what in my opinion were better uses to which to put the space. Had I had more time, more of the blank space at the end of chapters would have been used for illustrations. Or more illustrations, perhaps better chosen. Or an index.

I really do regret we cannot accept your invitation. I spent all day every day last week in washington, working at home before and after. By Saturday morning I was able to begin a 6000 word piece on something I believe none of us had earlier proved. I had only suggested. It may amount to nothing, but even though receipt of your letter interrupted both my work and thought and took some time to answer and left me somewhat unsettled, I completed the story that day and also did a few other things. Sunday I spent preparing for an drafting a point by point refutation of the Post's alleged fact, 2500-3000 words. These are the kinds of things I can do and, especially while we cannot afford the expense of travel, I feel I should do. Perhaps at some other time or in some other way, the same things can be accomplished.

If he can do so without everyone's bloodpressure exploding, possibly Mr. Arnoni could let me know, either directly or indirectly, what he mean by my "notorious" correspondence. Lane implied a threat of libel with which in the same letter he provided me with a most adequate defense of truth for saying something that was neither insulting nor demeaning while not at all taking offense at my proving he was a liar. Other than that, I really do not know what he may have meant. It is not important, certainly not important enough to make anyone unhappy about. It is merely that if there is anything against which I should guard myself against I'd like to. The status of things with Lane is that he agrees with me we should not spend our time and efforts fighting each other, or at least says so, and by inference at least agrees he will in public restrict his claims to the truth. This, may I say, was over his claim to have "discovered" the declassification of the FBI report.

Of my immediate problems, if any of you can or are willing to help with them, possibly distribution may be the most pressing, for it is from this that the contents can become known and the printer paid. If possible, I'd especially like Philadelphia distribution, for it is now the home of Arlen Specter. Thanks for anything any of you might do and for the invitation. Sincerely,